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Abstract of the national paper of Viet Nam

1. Viet Nam has been involved in remote sensing by satellite since 1979, with the implementation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project VIE/76/014 by the Ministry of Forests and of UNDP/FAO project VIE/76/011 by the National Centre for Scientific Research of Viet Nam, the predecessor of the National Centre for Natural Sciences and Technology.

2. Remote sensing, integrated with the Geographic Information System, has become a necessary tool in many institutions in Viet Nam, including government agencies. Major fields of application are forestry, land use planning, disaster mitigation and the environment. Viet Nam participates in the Regional Space Applications Programme and the regional projects of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Other bilateral projects with Canada, France and Japan, and with the European Union have been implemented in recent years.

3. In 1997, a high-resolution meteorological satellite receiving system for geostationary meteorological satellites and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America has been established for daily weather forecasting.

4. Over the past 10 years, Viet Nam Telecommunications has achieved remarkable results in setting up a modern telecommunication network. Telephone density increased from 0.21 per cent in 1991 to 1.65 per cent in February 1997. The Viet Nam Broadcasting and Telecommunication Organization has leased transponders from the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK) and other satellites from countries of the region for its communication needs. Viet Nam is interested in having its own satellite for multiple purposes to promote satellite communication applications. The Viet Nam Satellite Launching Project is expected to be completed by the year 2001.

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